

KAPPA ALPHA

AUTUMN 2019

THE TA

Magazine



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Counting Down to 150

BY: LIZ APPEL RINCK | GAMMA/BUTLER



This issue of the Theta magazine is the last one published in 2019 as well as the last one published during our Year of Leadership celebration. It is also the final issue published before—drumroll, please!—our sesquicentennial.

In case you don't have complete recall of the Winter 2016 Theta magazine, that's when we began the countdown to our "sesqui." As part of that countdown, we dedicated each of the next four years to one of our founders and a value she personified.

In honor of Bettie Tipton Lindsey, 2016 was the Year of Service. Those who knew Bettie described her as having a generous spirit, and she demonstrated this in her deep devotion to charitable endeavors in the communities in which she lived. In our 150 Days of Celebrating Service campaign, we offered ways for each of us to advocate for, volunteer for, and donate to a variety of important causes, as well as recognize individual Thetas for being true philanthropists.

Our focus in 2017 was the Year of Scholarship and Alice Allen Brant. After graduating from college, Alice remained committed to academic excellence: she became a teacher and high school principal. Through magazine articles, social media, and the Theta website, we shared stories of not only individual Theta scholars but also of the ways in which Theta Foundation, the Fraternity Housing Corporation, and our chapters support scholarship.

The Year of Sisterhood commemorated Hannah Fitch Shaw and included Grand Convention 2018. After Bettie Locke and Alice Allen graduated and Bettie Tipton transferred colleges, Hannah served as Theta's president, and she worked hard to preserve and grow the sisterhood that meant so much

to her. At Convention, we asked 800 Thetas to tell their stories of sisterly support, and even more stories were posted to social media using the hashtag #Thetasgotyourback.

So we come to 2019, the aforementioned Year of Leadership and a celebration of Bettie Locke Hamilton. Creating a supportive space for women in the male-dominated world of 1870 was a risky endeavor, and our founders—led by Bettie Locke—displayed a great deal of fortitude in doing so. Bettie was willing to take a chance, to look to the future, to do what she thought was necessary for the women around her and for the women who would come after her, not only at DePauw but across the U.S. and Canada.

A century and a half after our founding, membership in Theta continues to promote leadership by enhancing self-knowledge and nourishing the capacity each of us has to mobilize herself and others to serve and work collaboratively. We are inspired by our sisters on the pages of this issue, who have had the courage to ask, "Why not?" and to assume a leadership role, even when that seemed intimidating. These women include our cover-Theta, MJ Sagan, Beta Phi/Penn State (pages 16-19), president of her eponymous architectural firm; Samantha Gold, Beta Eta/Pennsylvania (page 9), advocate for positive change; the four recipients of Theta Foundation's Founders Memorial Scholarships (page 10); our Grand Convention speakers (pages 12 and 13), who make a difference in the world every day; and Marjorie Herrera Lewis, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State (pages 22 and 23), novelist, sportswriter, and teacher.

We're so pleased to introduce you to these—and many more—Thetas in this issue. We're also pleased that after many years of planning, our sesquicentennial is right around the corner. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

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FRATERNITY PRESIDENT

Mandy Burgett Wushinske, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern

CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Sierk Corridan, Beta Omicron/Iowa

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS/EDITOR

Elizabeth Appel Rinck, Gamma/Butler

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Isabella Markovski, Alpha/DePauw

MANUAL COORDINATOR

Lorie Larson Land, Alpha Chi/Purdue

FRATERNITY HEADQUARTERS

8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268-1300
Phone: 317.876.1870 | 1.800.526.1870
Fax: 317.876.1925
Email: info@kappaalphatheta.org
Website: www.kappaalphatheta.org

SEND COPY & CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Elizabeth Rinck, Editor
Kappa Alpha Theta Headquarters,
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 150
Email: lrinck@kappaalphatheta.org

SEND NOTICES OF DEATHS TO:

Kappa Alpha Theta Headquarters,
Attn.: Membership Coordinator
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 107
Email: gbrown@kappaalphatheta.org

SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO:

Kappa Alpha Theta Headquarters,
Attn.: Data Entry
317.876.8593 or 888.526.1870, ext. 323
Email: info@kappaalphatheta.org
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▲
Zeta Rho/UC San Diego

News, Views, & Stuff You Can Use

STAND UP TO HARVARD

Earlier this autumn, the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) announced some good news about the federal lawsuit against Harvard and its unfair sanctions policy that devastated safe spaces for women—such as Kappa Alpha Theta—on campus. The federal judge denied a vast majority of Harvard’s motion to dismiss the case.

“Today’s decision rightly recognizes that the lawsuit states four viable legal claims that Harvard’s Sanctions Policy discriminates on the basis of sex,” said R. Stanton Jones of Arnold & Porter, a lawyer for the plaintiffs in the federal case. “The court acknowledged what is undeniably true: Harvard’s

policy is discriminatory twice-over. As the court said, the policy ‘... discriminates both on the basis of the sex of the students in the social organization and the sex of the student who associates with that organization.’ The time has come for Harvard to end this discriminatory policy and do the right thing. Harvard should stop discriminating against its students and trust them to make their own choices about whom to associate with.”

EMERGING LEADERS

Theta’s seventh Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) took place over two sessions this summer at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. Approximately 100 members participated in the leadership curriculum, which is based on

the relational leadership model. Relational leadership focuses on the idea that leadership effectiveness has to do with the ability of the leader to create positive relationships within the organization.

The impact of the ELI experience is measured through an annual assessment, which indicates positive results connected to Theta’s learning goals for our members. One of the goals mapped to ELI is community engagement, the capability of members to promote the widest influence for good. We measure this using a scale that helps us understand the extent to which participants are (or are recognizing the need to be) working toward positive change on behalf of others. We are pleased to report that ELI participants are showing significant gains in this area!

ELI is supported by a grant from Theta Foundation whose donors help Theta provide quality programming with measurable impact.

NEARLY NEW NEWSLETTER

A recent communications survey told us that That alumnae love their Theta magazine (Thank you!), but they also want more “breaking news,” which doesn’t always coincide with the magazine production schedule. So we’ve created a quarterly e-newsletter especially for alumnae! It’s emailed in March, June, September, and December (in the intervals between magazine issues). If you didn’t receive the September issue, please log into Theta Portal (<https://portal.kappaalphatheta.org/>) to update your email address in our database.

THETA PORTAL

Theta Portal is your online, members-only resource for all things Theta. To access it, go to www.kappaalphatheta.org, look to the top-right side of the home page, and select Member Login. Once you do, you’ll see a page that says, “Welcome to Theta Portal.” At your first visit, click “Claim Your Account” and enter some basic information. After you do this process once, you can select “Login with FSID” in the future.

Once you are logged in, you will see your Theta Portal dashboard, including your member profile. If you’re a member of an alumnae chapter, click the Select Chapter dashboard. After choosing your alumnae chapter from the dropdown, you can see the chapter’s calendar of events, pay your dues, and register for events. Active college chapter members and advisors can choose the college chapter from the drop-down to see chapter details and tasks.

Theta Portal questions can be directed to support@chapterspot.com.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

In order to meet the standards for periodical-class mailing privileges for the Theta magazine, we file Form 3526, Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation, with the United States Postal Service by October 1 of each year. We are also required to publish the statement in the magazine issue immediately subsequent to October 1.



Founders Day

& FRIENDSHIP FUND MESSAGE

What a tremendous privilege it is to celebrate our sesquicentennial Founders Day in 2020! This January 27, we not only remember our founders, we also honor the amazing 150-year legacy of their creation: Kappa Alpha Theta.

I promise I don't use the word *amazing* lightly. Today it is challenging to picture what life was like for young women in 1870, when our founders attended Indiana Asbury. At that time, less than one percent of American women between the ages of 18 and 21 attended college. Women would not gain the right to vote in the US for 50 years. And it was a widely held belief that academic studies were not only inappropriate but actually unhealthy for women.

For Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie, bias and discrimination were everyday experiences. Citizens of Greencastle refused to rent living space to female students; professors opposed the admission of women because it would tarnish the reputation of the school; and male students denied women membership in campus social and literary groups.

Given all this, it is not at all difficult to picture how lost our founders must have felt and to understand their desire to create a space of acceptance, encouragement, and, yes, sisterhood.

By envisioning Kappa Alpha Theta and then having the courage and grace to bring that vision to life, our founders showed what one woman can do ... what four women can do ... what women together can do. We are the beneficiaries of the risks they took, and we can continue to be a force for understanding and supporting the aspirations of women at every stage of life. Like our founders, we can choose to be strong and dedicated, to grow personally, and to be part of something larger than ourselves.

Sometimes this isn't easy. But it's real, and it's important. I believe our founders would be pleased to know how women's roles have evolved. And—like us—I believe they would realize that the evolution is not complete, that there is still work to do to ensure that women are not denied opportunities simply because of who we are.

In founding the first Greek-letter fraternity known among women, Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie built something for themselves in a world that sometimes wanted to offer them very little. Did they know that they would become role models for generations of Thetas? Did they know that Kappa Alpha Theta would celebrate its 150th anniversary some day?

I believe they did, even if only subconsciously. In later years, Bettie Locke Hamilton revealed some of her thoughts about Kappa Alpha Theta. "I feel as I never did before that it was really worthwhile to struggle as [we] did to found the first Greek-fraternity for women. ... Yet if bright, courageous girls had not given us their support in the years following our efforts in establishing the first Greek-letter fraternity, Kappa Alpha Theta could not be what it is. ... We had to make a place for women in a man's world, and the Fraternity was one means to that bigger end."

Wherever you are on our sesquicentennial Founders Day, I encourage you to spend a few moments celebrating four young girls from ordinary Midwestern backgrounds who conceived something extraordinary. Because they knew they deserved more, because they knew they deserved the same college experience as men, Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie gave us Kappa Alpha Theta. They gave us a welcoming, empowering, supportive space that each of us is able to cherish in her own way.

Happy 150th anniversary, Kappa Alpha Theta!

Loyally,

Mandy Burgett Wushinske

Mandy Burgett Wushinske, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern Fraternity President

THETA'S FRIENDSHIP FUND

The early college days of Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie were difficult. They needed one another: to console and empathize, to uplift and encourage, to strengthen and support. Just as our founders did, generations of Thetas have offered these things to one another.

We have also offered material aid in our sisters' darkest hours, and that is the basis for our Friendship Fund. Since 1926, the fund has provided gifts to Thetas experiencing extreme financial hardship due to serious or terminal illness, job loss, natural disaster, and other devastating occurrences.

On January 27, 2020, the 150th anniversary of our founding, I hope you will join me in honoring our founders with a gift to the Friendship Fund. With the traditional gift of \$1 per year of membership, you can give support to sisters who desperately need it.

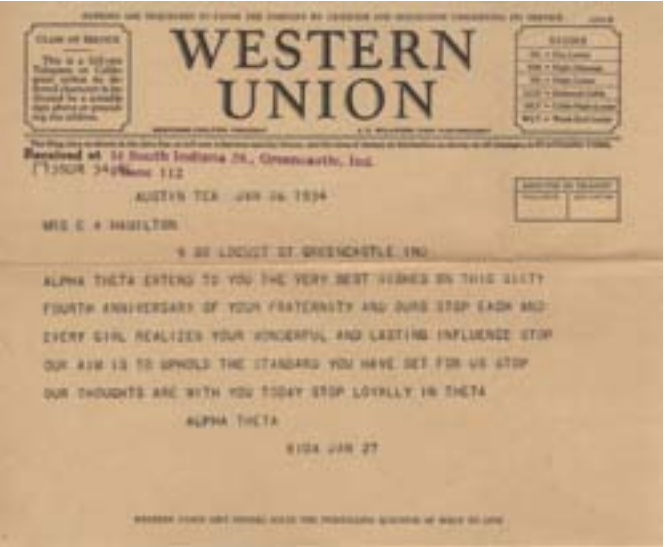
Gifts to the fund may be made by checks payable to Kappa Alpha Theta, with "Friendship Fund" written on the memo line, and mailed to Kappa Alpha Theta, 8740 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268, attn: Friendship Fund. (Gifts are not tax-deductible.)

For more information about requesting help from the Friendship Fund for a Theta sister, please contact friendshipfund@kappaalphatheta.org or call 888-526-1870, ext. 140.

Congratulations & Best Wishes

BY: NORALEEN DUVALL YOUNG | ALPHA CHI/PURDUE

Imagine being able to say "Thank you" to one of Theta's founders on Founders Day! That's exactly what chapters and members were able to do in Theta's early years. These telegrams from Beta Nu/Florida State, Alpha Theta/Texas, and Iota/Cornell wish Bettie Locke Hamilton congratulations on the 64th anniversary of Kappa Alpha Theta in 1934.





WELCOME
HOME



DELTA OMICRON/ALABAMA

A large group of alumnae from the Delta Omicron Chapter at Alabama welcomed Thetas from other chapters—including Fraternity President Mandy Burgett Wushinske, FHC President Mary Jane Parker Beach, Theta Foundation President Vicki Laughlin McCluggage, the Fraternity Housing Corporation board of directors, and Grand Council members—to Tuscaloosa for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the Delta Omicron house.

We are so happy that Delta Omicron's facility corporation had a vision for the new chapter house. Corporation board members were instrumental in starting the project and for getting FHC personnel involved so we could help make the house a reality. We also want to extend a special thanks to all donors, as well as the capital campaign committee. We are so excited that so many Thetas played a major role in raising more than \$430,000.

Karen Albrecht Ledbetter, FHC interior design committee member, pulled together all the details and truly made the house shine. The badge inlay in the foyer is among many details that members can't stop talking about! The Delta Omicron Chapter is thriving, and we know this new space will be an ideal place in which to make more memories together.

Check out the Theta website (Find a Chapter>College Chapters>Delta Omicron) to see more interior photos.

SAMANTHA GOLD, BETA ETA/PENNSYLVANIA, KNEW WHAT SHE HAD TO DO TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE ON HER CAMPUS: SHE TOOK INITIATIVE, BECAME HER OWN ADVOCATE, AND PAVED THE WAY FOR PENN STUDENTS TO LISTEN TO AND UNDERSTAND OUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL WELLNESS. SAMANTHA GOLD IS THE EPITOME OF A ...



LEADING
WOMAN

When I started school at Penn, to say I was overwhelmed would be an understatement. I didn't know where my classes were or where I should eat lunch or dinner, let alone with whom I should be doing those things. I desperately missed my high school friends; they knew everything about me, and I knew they were always there to support me. That feeling is what solidified my desire to participate in formal Greek recruitment. I was excited by the opportunity to join a community of women who would always have my back, sit next to me in class, or enjoy a froyo on a lazy Saturday. Admittedly, the sorority gear was also a draw, but truthfully, I was eager to develop new, lifelong friendships.

From the first moment I walked into Theta, I felt like I belonged there. (And luckily, they agreed!) I'll never forget the first day of formal recruitment when all the older members were on the stairs waiting to greet us, singing "I love black and gold!" at the top of their lungs. As someone who is always down for a good dancing/singing party, I couldn't help but smile. I was totally hooked. It was amazing to be in a room filled with 150 individuals who considered each other sisters. I knew I would make friends here who loved and supported my authentic self. When recruitment began, I was amazed at all the clubs, jobs, and experiences each member spoke about and was involved in. I knew that in joining a sorority, I'd find my people.

CogWell@Penn (www.cogwellupenn.com) is a peer support network for Penn students that is committed to prompting open dialogue on campus and fighting the stigma surrounding mental health struggles, namely through nurturing students' active listening skills. Training focuses on the dos and don'ts of listening. I joined CogWell in Fall 2017 after a Penn classmate in Greek life died by suicide. I wanted to find a way to prevent this from happening in the future. When I heard about CogWell, I figured it would be the best place to start. I became the president of CogWell at the beginning of my senior year, and my main goal was to bring CogWell's training into all of Greek life. I hoped that we could make the active listening training sessions a mandatory part of sorority/fraternity membership, so that all members of Greek-letter organizations would be equipped with these important skills.

Following graduation, I still use the active listening skills I developed in CogWell, probably every day. I think when people hear that we train students in active listening, they assume these skills are only useful when a friend or loved one is in serious distress. But the amazing thing about active listening is anyone can be an active listener in any situation. At Penn, my friends dubbed me the "apartment therapist" because my active listening skills helped

LEADING WOMAN

me support them through everything from a bad grade to feeling nervous for an important event or conversation. When a close friend of mine went through a bad breakup, I felt prepared to help her navigate the situation. When my brother is struggling with a class in school, I know how to help him come up with proactive next steps to succeed. When my mom and I disagree about something, I know how to explain to her how I am feeling or thinking and not let my emotions drive my thoughts.

To be a leading woman, you must be an advocate for positive change, no matter how scary or daunting the task at hand seems. When I became president of CogWell, I was actually the only member of the club because all of our other members graduated the year before. I'll never forget standing at the club fair table, screaming into a sea of students about changing the conversation surrounding mental health on Penn's campus, desperately hoping that at least one person would want to come on this journey with me.

Being a leading woman means working to improve the lives of those around you. We can so easily forget how amazing it is to have a great impact on even a handful of peers. Though we couldn't provide training to every fraternity and sorority on Penn's campus during my time as an undergraduate, we trained more than 500 students. That means 500 people who can go out and be better friends, sisters, brothers, children, and colleagues, 500 people who can now share with even more people what they learned in the CogWell training. We created the space for many more necessary conversations on campus. To be any type of leader, I believe you must consider how your work can better the people or communities around you. You must be willing to jump in headfirst, get your hands dirty, and work to make your part of the world even just a slightly better place.

2019 FOUNDERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

THE FOUNDERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE THETA FOUNDATION'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS, VALUED AT \$12,000 EACH, AND AWARDED TO FOUR COLLEGE JUNIORS EACH YEAR. EACH RECIPIENT IS PURPOSEFULLY MATCHED TO A SPECIFIC FOUNDER BASED ON THEIR SHARED QUALITIES. HELP US CELEBRATE THESE OUTSTANDING WOMEN ON THEIR INCREDIBLE SUCCESSES!



BETTIE LOCKE HAMILTON:
THE LEADER
CLAIRE NICHOLS CHAPMAN
GAMMA TAU/TULSA

As the CEO of her chapter, Claire has implemented positive changes by empowering each officer on her leadership team to innovate in at least one way through their position. She was recognized as a Top 10 Freshman by the University of Tulsa and was named Outstanding Sophomore by the campus Panhellenic Council. Claire serves as an orientation leader for incoming students at the university as well as on the Honors Selection Committee—something only a few honors students are selected to assist with each year. Additionally, she formed her chapter's inaugural Polar Plunge team to benefit Special Olympics and has participated in mission trips to Honduras for the past few years.



HANNAH FITCH SHAW:
THE MOTIVATOR
CAROLINE VIRGINIA DADE
ALPHA MU/MISSOURI

Caroline has helped position her chapter for future success. Most notably, she created a new attendance system, memorized Fraternity and chapter bylaws to conduct a thorough bylaws review, and, as current recruitment director, helped navigate the chapter's first continuous open bidding (COB) process in recent history. As a freshman, Caroline co-authored an article that was published in an online academic journal and—as the only undergraduate out of more than 2,000 conference attendees—presented these findings at a top journalism conference. She has served on Mizzou's Homecoming Steering Committee and has planned and participated in Mizzou Alternative Break service trips around the country.



ALICE ALLEN BRANT:
THE LEARNER
KATHRYN ANN FASOLA
ALPHA TAU/CINCINNATI

Katie was admitted to the University of Cincinnati as a Carl H. Lindner Honors-PLUS Scholar, part of a unique and challenging honors program within UC's College of Business. As part of this program, she has participated in co-op internships with multiple reputable companies. She has served on the executive team of the College of Business Ambassador program for the past two years and has also participated in a Habitat for Humanity Service Trip to build a house for Hurricane Katrina victims in New Orleans. Katie is the current CEO of her chapter and received an award at her chapter's Founders Day celebration as the junior recognized for contributing the most to Theta over the past year.



BETTIE TIPTON LINDSEY:
THE DOER
AUBREY JEAN HERMEN
ALPHA PHI/TULANE

Aubrey is the epitome of a doer. While interning at Dress for Success New Orleans, she helped launch the organization's inaugural fundraising gala. She has also built houses alongside at-risk youth through UnCommon Construction, which hires high school apprentices to build houses to gain technical, professional, and personal skills. She currently serves as her chapter's CEO and utilizes positive reinforcement to ensure all members feel valued. Aubrey noted that, "I wear my mom's Theta badge to remind me of the noble Theta ideals that I was raised with and remind me to practice them in my everyday life." Outside of Theta, she has impacted her campus as the marketing and public relations coordinator for Tulane University Campus Programming.

Something Special IS COMING



THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT 150 YEARS OF SISTERHOOD ... 150 YEARS OF THE FIRST GREEK-LETTER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION ... 150 YEARS OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA.

TO CELEBRATE THIS MONUMENTAL MILESTONE, WE'RE PUBLISHING A BOOK! *150 YEARS OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA* WILL TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT OUR RICH HISTORY THROUGH ARCHIVAL IMAGES AND ARTIFACTS.

USING A DECADE-BY-DECADE STRUCTURE, THE 96-PAGE HARDCOVER BOOK WILL INCLUDE BADGE AND JEWELRY PHOTOGRAPHS, HISTORICAL VIGNETTES, CHAPTER ESTABLISHMENTS, QUOTES, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

REFLECT ON THE RICH HISTORY OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA BY PURCHASING YOUR VERY OWN COPY OF *150 YEARS OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA*. (LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL IN-BOX AND AT WWW.KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG.)

SAVE THE DATE FOR #GIVINGTUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2019

Join us in celebrating one of our first leading women, Bettie Locke Hamilton, by supporting the *Theta Forever Fund*! Unrestricted donations to the *Theta Forever Fund* bridge the gap between the experiences made possible by membership dues and the realities of educational and leadership programming expenses. Together, we can realize Bettie's greatest hope that the Theta experience will empower women for generations to come!

You Want to Hear These Women



AN IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP OF LEADING WOMEN WILL SPEAK AT GRAND CONVENTION 2020!

We're excited to announce our Grand Convention 2020 speakers: phenomenal women who are accomplished in their own right and make a difference in the world every day. You won't want to miss their inspirational stories, so make plans now to travel to Indianapolis July 8 through 12.



BARBARA PIERCE BUSH

Barbara Bush is co-founder and board chairman of Global Health Corps (GHC), which mobilizes a global community of young leaders to build the movement for health equity. GHC was founded in 2009 by six twentysomethings who were challenged at the aids2031 Young Leaders Summit to engage their generation in solving the world's biggest health challenges. Bush and her co-founders were united by the belief that health is a human right and that their generation must build the world in which this is realized.

Since that time, GHC has placed nearly 1,000 young leaders on the front lines of health equity in Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, and the United States, developing a cadre of creative, effective, and compassionate change-makers. Because of her leadership, Barbara was named one of *Glamour* magazine's Women of the Year, was recognized as one of *Newsweek's* Women of Impact, and was named to *Fast Company's* Most Creative People in Business list. Along with her twin sister, Jenna Hager, she is also the author of *Sisters First*, a *New York Times* best-seller. An alumna of the Epsilon Tau Chapter, Barbara graduated from Yale with a degree in humanities.



SIMONA CHIN CAMPBELL

An accomplished athlete—she won a silver medal as part of the US Paralympic Rowing Team, and her team placed first in three US Rowing National Championships—Simona Chin Campbell has also had a successful career in business and education. Her free time is dedicated to philanthropy: she has served in various leadership roles with the Junior League of Washington, DC, and makes and serves breakfast to women at a local shelter in the DC area.

In 2018, Simona was selected as a 40 Under 40 Honoree by *The Washington Business Journal*. The list recognizes those who stand out in their industries, climbing the ranks at a young age while still finding time to impact the Greater Washington community. An alumna of the Phi deuteron Chapter, Simona has a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford and an MBA from University of California, Berkeley.



KELLY CORRIGAN

A gifted storyteller and talented interviewer, Kelly Corrigan has touched hearts and captured audiences as the author of four consecutive New York Times best-sellers, including *Tell Me More*, *Glitter and Glue*, and *The Middle Place*, her poignant personal story of battling breast cancer while caring for her father who was also undergoing cancer treatment. She has been called “the Poet Laureate of the ordinary” by Huffington Post, “the voice of a generation” by *O Magazine*, and lauded by everyone from Lena Dunham to Imbolo Mbue.

Kelly is currently the host of The Nantucket Project, a live-event series as well as a podcast. She also hosts *Exactly* at KQED, the most listened-to public radio station in America. *Exactly* features interviews with some of today's most creative writers and entertainers. An alumna of the Epsilon Psi Chapter, Kelly received a bachelor's degree in English from University of Richmond and a master's degree in literature from San Francisco State University.

Additional speakers may be added. Updates will be posted to Theta's social media channels and www.kappaalphatheta.org.

Are You Ready?

BY: KATIE BUSBY, PhD | EPSILON ZETA/MISSISSIPPI
JENNI BROUGHTON SCHMALTZ | GAMMA/BUTLER

Are you ready ... to serve? Many Thetas choose to serve on boards for organizations about which they are passionate. There are many questions to ask yourself before deciding whether to serve an organization at this level. Alicia Lee, Zeta Omicron/Wake Forest, knew she was ready for board service when she found an organization where she "... believed in the work the organization was doing and wanted to provide my skillset to the board ... to move us further and make an impact in the community."

Leading women should carefully consider their skills, talents, and capacity to volunteer and seek the role that most closely aligns with their passions and abilities. As we approach the start of a new biennium, you may be considering serving on one of Theta's three boards: Grand Council, Foundation Board of Trustees, or Fraternity Housing Corporation Board of Directors. To view job descriptions and the responsibilities and expectations of each board, as well as to read blog posts by Thetas who have served in this capacity, search "Board Service" on the Theta website.

Serving Kappa Alpha Theta as an advisor, committee member, appointed officer, or board member can be a rewarding experience, but how do you know what type of service is best for you? While the questions below (adapted from a quiz at boardsource.org) can be broadened to help determine your readiness for any board service, we have edited them to help you determine if Theta board service is right for you.

BOARD READINESS QUIZ

Yes/No	Questions
_____	I am interested in advancing the mission of Kappa Alpha Theta.
_____	I am curious to learn about issues facing higher education and Greek life.
_____	I am interested in a new environment and experience to further develop myself as a leader.
_____	I understand the roles and responsibilities of being a Theta board member.
_____	I prefer thinking strategically about the future of the organization versus being hands-on in the day-to-day activities.
_____	I am patient and collegial when working with a team.
_____	I can commit the time necessary to be an exceptional board member.
_____	I am comfortable making a personal contribution to the organization.

IF YOU ANSWERED "NO" TO MORE THAN TWO QUESTIONS, BOARD SERVICE MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU AT THIS TIME. CONSIDER OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED: ATTEND A FOUNDERS DAY EVENT, JOIN AN ALUMNAE GROUP, VOLUNTEER FOR A LOCAL COLLEGE OR ALUMNAE CHAPTER.

THETA SPOTLIGHTS: BOARD SERVICE

I think it is important to understand the role of board members. In addition to volunteer service, board members must be prepared for fiscal and legal oversight of an organization. Board members must also be in tune with the mission of the organization and have a good understanding of the strategic plan.

Jan Keefer
Beta/Indiana

Current Board Service:

- Community Health Network Foundation Board
- Indiana University Women's Philanthropy Council
- IU Foundation Board of Associates and the IUPUI Library Board

As a young professional, I realized board service provided a way to build relationships and gain experience to complement my career, so I pursued professional associations. Now, as a more seasoned professional, I have a desire to give back and support my community.

Karen Alter
Gamma/Butler

Current Board Service:

- Rotary Club of Indianapolis
- Arts Council of Indianapolis

I feel that the most important thing for someone to consider is whether she has a deep passion for the mission of the organization. This enables you to want to donate your time, talents, energy, and treasury to the board you are working on. Having passion about the mission gives you the "drive" to succeed and create positive energy for success.

Kendy Cusick-Rindone
Rho/Nebraska

Current Board Service:

- Daughters of the Nile Board of Directors

TRUSTING SITES TO TELL THEIR STORIES,
DESIGN ARCHITECT MJ SAGAN DISCOVERS
MAGIC IN EVERY PROJECT.

BY: JAN SCHMITZ MATHEW | DELTA/ILLINOIS

INSPIRED Spaces

Boldly and improbably suspended over a 30-foot cascading waterfall, the 5,300-square-foot home offered cantilevered concrete terraces that invited guests to savor the surrounding woodland. Expansive windows, floors and walls of local sandstone, and a living room hearth that melded with a rock outcropping to suggest a harmonious marriage of man and nature.

Laying her eyes on architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater for the first time as a youngster, MJ Sagan delighted in every groundbreaking feature of his masterwork. But it was the collective vision that began to carve her life's path.

"The experience was transformational," recalls Sagan, Beta Phi/Penn State, of her childhood family trip to Wright's famous southwestern Pennsylvania structure. "Fallingwater broke all the 'rules' for what a house should be; it blurred lines of interior and exterior. It also illustrated the power of architecture to determine or control an experience.

"I've been back to Fallingwater about 20 times since, and I see something different every time. It's one of my goals in life to get everyone I cross paths with to go there."

Sagan is equally passionate about sketching. Growing up in the small Pennsylvania town of Latrobe—also home to Fred Rogers, Arnold Palmer, and the original Rolling Rock brewery—she was rarely found without pencil and sketch pad in hand. "I've always been a very visual person," she says, "and I 'talk' with pictures."

Decades later, Sagan's flair for illustrative communication led to her position as founder and president of Princeton, New Jersey-based MJ Sagan Architecture. A relatively small studio that focuses on client relationships and creative collaborations, Sagan's roster of projects extends internationally and ranges from new store designs for retailers like Abercrombie & Fitch to residential kitchen remodels.

Images of Fallingwater still exert their influence. "When I lead programs for schoolchildren, I typically start by asking them to sketch houses," Sagan says. "They draw the typical box house with a door, windows, and chimney, which fits most peoples' visions. Then I show them pictures of Fallingwater and explain that houses don't have to be typical. Sometimes there are no rules.

"I've said it many times," she adds. "I didn't find architecture; architecture found me."

DRAFTING THE GROUNDWORK

This calling often felt like a solitary journey, Sagan admits. "I was on an atypical path and was sometimes dissuaded," she recalls. "Architecture wasn't something women *did* at the time. But luckily, my high school had an architecture program, and I was able to take classes in architectural drawing."

Attending Penn State in the small town of State College was equally fortuitous. Within a large, diverse student population, Sagan carved her unique niche and also found a supportive "neighborhood."

"The women of Theta were so self-confident, fun, and relaxed," she says. "I didn't feel any pretense. I was in the process of finding myself, and Theta felt like a great place to grow."

Sagan graduated from Penn State with a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture, and stayed a fifth year to earn a professional Bachelor of Architecture degree, which is required in order to become a licensed architect. Her class had about 75 students freshman year, but that number had decreased to 22 by the end of the fifth year. The majority were male.

Following graduation, Sagan lived in Connecticut for about five years, working first as a staff designer and then associate for several architectural design firms. But her professional eye was fixed on New York City, which she considered a mecca for outstanding architecture. Sagan moved to the Big Apple in 1990 and joined Anderson/Schwartz Architects as an associate. When the company's partners split in 1996, she stayed with one of them in the new firm—Anderson Architects pc—as vice president.

Sagan moved to Princeton, New Jersey, in 1992 after her oldest son was born. She continued to work in New York City, but she says that managing a long commute, motherhood, and architecture often felt like "balancing life on a pin." By 2006 a decision loomed: whether to stay with Anderson Architects or to strike out on her own.

"Our firm was growing, and I felt the younger people were having all the fun while I was putting out fires and attending meetings," Sagan says. "I wasn't doing what I wanted to be doing, and I was seeking a better balance."

The pendulum swung toward independence, and the launch of MJ Sagan Architecture in 2006 fulfilled her long-held vision to establish a small, creative, and collaborative team with a client-centered focus. "Architecture is so personal for me, and I consider it a gift to give clients exactly what they want—even when they're not sure *exactly*



"The women of Theta were so self-confident, fun, and relaxed. I didn't feel any pretense. I was in the process of finding myself, and Theta felt like a great place to grow."

MJ Sagan during the pre-opening walk-through of a prototype for Abercrombie & Fitch stores across the US. "It was exciting to work on the renovation of a well-established retail brand." Photo by Anne Ciotola.



A "self-portrait" of MJ's left hand. (She is right-handed.)



"Serenity," an award-winning oil painting by MJ. The title refers to the serotinous cones of a tree that need hot, fast-moving fires to open and release their seeds.

what that is,” she says. “Our firm doesn’t operate like a machine. We’re very selective about the projects we accept.”

BELIEVING IN MAGIC

Sagan believes the intuitive aspect of architecture is something that surprises many people. “Most of what’s built is just *buildings* and not necessarily architecture,” she says. “For me, it’s all about listening to the site, which is a seed that was planted for me at Fallingwater. The site can be empty fields in Ohio; a family’s house; or the 12th floor of a high rise.

“Most of what’s built is just buildings and not necessarily architecture. For me, it’s all about listening to the site.”

“You have to be thoughtful in experiencing the space before you release your brain. And when you respect what’s there, the site starts designing itself. It tells you the view you want, or where the entrance should be.

“When you’re not heavy-handed or forceful and you make a connection, that’s the magic.”

Client relationships are also key. “Connection to the client is critical, or the project will fail, regardless of what it is,” Sagan stresses. “We can’t ignore budget, schedule, liability, or codes. We weave a tapestry with various threads; some are silk, some are wire.

“Design architecture is an incredible puzzle, a great experience. And if it’s the right client, I know we’re in for an incredible journey.”

Typically, three or four architects compose the MJ Sagan Architecture team, although the staff varies according to numbers of projects. But regardless of scope, Sagan and colleagues bring the same thoughtful and holistic approach to every job.

“Projects tend to be in our office a long time,” Sagan says. “Anything that is permanent to the building is part of our overall design: lights, paint, door and cabinet hardware. We get it all figured out before construction starts, which helps control the schedule and cost. We also stay with our projects through construction.”

Recognition of the firm’s work often comes in the form of awards. Sagan’s work, including projects she designed

prior to launching her own firm, have garnered numerous design awards, including the American Architecture Award, American Institute of Architects (AIA) New Jersey, AIA New York, and AIA Columbus, Ohio. Particularly gratifying was the award-winning design of the Abercrombie & Fitch (A&F) Building U, which Sagan worked on while at anderson architects.

“We were selected over well-known retail design firms for the new prototype for A&F, which was their first store re-design in 15 years,” she says. Sagan also designed and worked on A&F’s corporate headquarters, transforming a virgin field and wooded site to a contemporary campus. The last project she designed prior to leaving anderson architects was the Princeton University Soccer Stadium in what she considers her “adopted” hometown.

“So much of what I do isn’t about projecting me, but rather what I project for the client,” she says. “It’s always about being a mirror. I also dislike doing the same thing twice; that’s not challenging or fun.

“My favorite project is always the next one.”

CREATING PERSONAL MASTERWORKS

Fallingwater, Sagan’s original muse, lies about 300 miles from her Princeton home. Yet elements of Wright’s famous structure have transcended decades and distance, finding their ways to Sagan’s 1946 Cape Cod, her home for the past 24 years.

“My house is very autobiographical,” Sagan says, referring to treasures such as a schoolhouse chalkboard that was in the basement of her childhood home. “Everything is there for a reason and gives the space meaning. It’s all about keeping what has emotional value and living in a space that makes you feel happy, balanced, and comfortable.

“When I’m here alone I’m comfortable, and when the kids are home, it’s still comfortable. Spaces should be elastic and evolve with you.”

Her relatively small house, originally intended to be temporary, now carries marks of a masterwork. From tile pat-

terns to light switches, Sagan considered every decision as one she would live with “forever.”

“I invested in expensive handles for the kitchen cabinets and drawers,” she says. “I touch them every day, and they feel so good!”

Following the recent completion of a first-floor shed addition, Sagan’s home was featured in the October/November 2016 issue of *Design NJ Magazine*. In the story, authored by David Schiff, Sagan says the addition was designed to improve traffic flow, enhance the usefulness of new and existing spaces, and create a strong connection between the landscape and the house. Other features also linked to a Wright-inspired design: a kitchen with expansive outside views; a screened porch that provides a natural transition between indoors and out; and floor-to-ceiling windows in several areas.

“There are so many ways to get something great out of a small space,” Sagan says. “The best thing you can do in design is make it simple, edit it down to something clean and pure.”

The concept also applies to sketching. As was true in childhood, Sagan is rarely without her sketchbook, particularly when she travels to destinations such as India, Morocco, Cuba, or Peru. Her latest creative exercise is what she calls a “one-minute sketch”—capturing an image with a single continuous line and completing the sketch in one minute. Anything can catch her eye, such as a doorway hinge, stacked vegetable cart, two people sitting on a bench, a façade’s asymmetry. Two of her favorites are a one-line sketch of a pineapple and a lunch table place-setting from a restaurant in Cuba. Sagan says the challenge is always the same: finding the simplest way to create the magic.

“My favorite project is always the next one.”

“I took up painting a couple of years ago and find it very meditative and a good release,” she says. “I’m also trying to expand the way I cook and the combinations of flavors I use. It’s all about being in the moment and being thoughtful. No matter where you go or what you do, something special is there if you’re willing to look.”

Sagan’s passionate worldview is reflected in the paths chosen by her three children. Nick, her oldest son, lives in Brooklyn, New York, and works for one of the city’s non-profit organizations; daughter Clair teaches first grade in northern Virginia; and youngest son Owen is pursuing an architecture degree at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

The field of architecture has changed since Sagan embarked on her relatively unconventional journey, and she’s encouraged by the direction. The percentage of female architects now stands at more than 50 percent, although women still lag behind as owners of large architectural firms. The bottom line, Sagan believes, is the need to support one another.

“My generation probably could have done better,” she admits, “but we were attempting to break through barriers. It was a time when women were almost trying to get into a man’s world by doing things the way men would do them. Now, I’m doing things *my* way.

“Follow your heart and your passion. If you’re true to yourself, it’ll work.”



One of several buildings MJ Sagan Architecture designed for the Abercrombie & Fitch corporate headquarters near Columbus, Ohio. Photo by Michael Moran.



The master bathroom of MJ’s own home features marble/concrete tiles that weave and wrap the walls in a pattern she designed. Photo by Adrian Wilson.



MJ sketched this tabletop to remind her of lunch with a friend in Trinidad, Cuba. It was later part of a Cuban-focused art exhibit in New York.

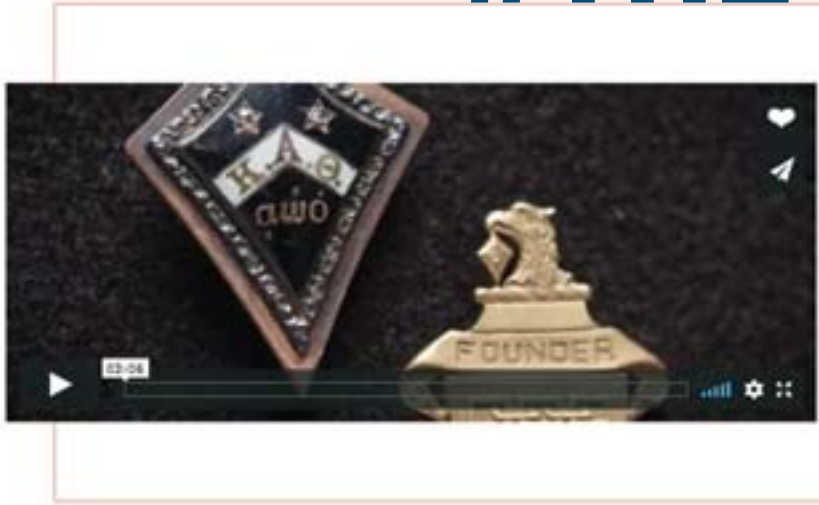


Lovingly renovated and restored by MJ Sagan Architecture, Casa Edward is one of the original homes built in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles.

Photo by Nico Marques.



#THETA150



#Theta150

No matter how you celebrate, be sure to take a moment to thank Bettie for being a visionary, taking a stand, and establishing a supportive organization for women that is just as strong today as it was in 1870.

2020 is Kappa Alpha Theta’s 150th anniversary, and we’re so eager to share this singular moment in Theta history with each and every one of you. No matter how you might want to celebrate our sesquicentennial—hosting or attending a Founders Day celebration on January 27 or simply writing a note or email to a Theta sister letting her know you’re thinking of her—we’ve created lots of exclusive resources, merchandise, and even a special webpage to help.

Check out other 150-related articles in this issue (pages 11, 12-13, 21, and 28-29), and then visit www.kappaalphatheta.org/150.

The 2020 Collection

Our badge is a tangible symbol of Theta’s history. Every time we pin it over our hearts, we emulate our founders, who—wearing their brand-new “kites”—stepped proudly into Indiana Asbury’s chapel and introduced Kappa Alpha Theta to the world.

Today, our kite-shaped badge continues to represent the courage and perseverance of Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie and helps us remember the impact of our founding on generations of women.

In honor of Theta’s sesquicentennial in 2020, we have developed a once-in-a-lifetime jewelry collection to celebrate 150 years of the first Greek-letter fraternity for women. The 2020 Collection is a limited-edition collection unlike anything we’ve done before. The badge is an exact replica of the original ones Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie wore in 1870; it is available not only in the traditional pin-on style but also as a pendant to be worn on a chain. In addition, the Collection includes unique badge guards in three designs and metal grades plus a 150th anniversary dangle.



BY PURCHASING AND WEARING THESE UNIQUE PIECES, WE CAN HONOR KAPPA ALPHA THETA’S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE IN A SPECIAL WAY. TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.KAPPAALPHATHETA.ORG/150.



MARJORIE HERRERA LEWIS, DELTA EPSILON/ARIZONA STATE, HAS BEEN A SPORTSWRITER AND A FOOTBALL COACH; SHE CURRENTLY TEACHES MEDIA ETHICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS. HER DEBUT NOVEL, *WHEN THE MEN WERE GONE*, PUBLISHED IN 2018, WAS THE JUNE SELECTION OF READING WOMEN, THETA'S ONLINE BOOK CLUB. LEARN MORE AT WWW.MARJORIEHERRERALEWIS.COM.

1 FOOTBALL PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN YOUR RÉSUMÉ, AS WELL AS IN YOUR NOVEL. PLEASE TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE SPORT THAT WE PROBABLY DON'T KNOW.

My guess is that most people don't know that football was first played in 1869. It was so dangerous—violent with little protection—there were moves to outlaw the game. But in late 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt came to the rescue by demanding rules changes that would make the game safer. He called a meeting made up of more than 50 universities, and that meeting is widely considered the precursor to the creation of the NCAA.

2 WHAT PROFESSION OTHER THAN YOUR OWN WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEMPT? WHAT PROFESSION WOULD YOU PREFER NOT TO ATTEMPT?

I would love to be a college women's basketball coach. I thought about it when I was entering college, but once I discovered journalism, there was no looking back. What I would not want to attempt is becoming a dentist. My father is a retired dentist, and back in the day, during the summer, I'd help out in the front office. It didn't take long for me to realize no one wanted to be there. Fortunately, my dad was a fantastic dentist, and everyone loved him.

3 CATS, DOGS, OR HOUSEPLANTS?

Dogs, but I love cats, too. I have two dogs—Snickers and Reggie—both Shih Tzus, plus my younger daughter's Yorkie, Lucas, is often at our house. I've had cats before, too. But houseplants? They better be made of rubber if they want to survive under my care.

4 IF YOU HAD AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID VACATION TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

I'd go to Greece. I had plans to go when I graduated from college, but there was so much unrest there at the time that potential visitors were encouraged to steer clear. I've travelled quite a bit since then, but never to Greece. I'm fascinated by the history, so I hope I make it there someday.

5 WHAT'S YOUR GUILTY PLEASURE?

My guilty pleasure is watching Judge Judy with my husband, Chuck. I can't really explain the appeal, but we both get a kick out of it. We record it and watch when we get home in the evening ... even before we think about dinner.

6 WHAT'S YOUR "UNFAIR ADVANTAGE," A SKILL OR QUALITY THAT DISTINGUISHES YOU?

I have an incredible memory. I can remember what I was thinking when I was two years old! I can remember places, climates, people, and emotions. My sisters often call me to ask something like, "Have I ever been to Montana?" I'll say yes. Then I go on to tell them where we all stayed and what fun activities we participated in.

7 LOOKING AT ME, NO ONE WOULD GUESS...

... I have four college degrees and two graduate certificates. I love school, and I plan to do another graduate program soon.

8 WHAT DO YOU VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

I love commitment in my friends. They joke with me, saying the only way out of a friendship with me is through the witness protection program! I love that! I have friends who go back to when I was a year old. I value friends who value friendship and stick around.

9 WHAT DOES THE CONCEPT OF WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN MEAN TO YOU?

Women supporting women is so powerful. Women make many different life choices, and I think it's important to support each other in those choices: work or stay home, for example. There are so many different ways women can be powerful contributors to society, and I believe it's important for women to know that other women support the varied efforts.

10 WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST THETA MEMORY?

Funny that football started this conversation and football will complete it. Of the many wonderful memories, my fondest Theta memory is when we played flag football together. We formed our first team when I was a sophomore and never won a game. Junior year we lost in the championship game. Senior year we won the championship. To see us all come together was so much fun. We had fantastic participation—most of us knew nothing about football up to then—and we worked hard for a common goal. We had the support of the girls who didn't play; our games were well-attended and the cheering section was unbelievable. What's remarkable is that this tradition has continued at ASU. I love that.

Photo by Hoyoung Lee

≡ Snapshots ≡



REUNIONS

A **Epsilon Lambda** alumnae from **Dickinson's** class of 2010 have reunited every Memorial Day weekend for 10 years! Pictured are **Amélie Milet, Morgan Mintz Flannery, Kimberly Alligood, Kelly Maurer, Olivia Lewis Arscott, Catherine Villada, Kate Burmeister, and Sarah Compton.**

B **Ardith Morrison Morgan, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi, Alicia Ann Bunnell, Epsilon Zeta/Mississippi, and Amy Holmes Joiner, Delta Kappa/LSU,** attended the 35th reunion of Slidell High School class of 1985 in New Orleans together.

C **Lisa Wilson, Stacey Steffan Wehrle, Elizabeth Echols, Cathy Colwell Ruprecht, Maureen Healy Pranske, Robyn Cowley, Jill Sisler Cleverdon, Kathy Jasper Cameron, Denise Raiche Wulff, and Kelly Lane Gates,** all **Gamma Tau/Tulsa,** gathered for a 1983 new member class reunion.

D **Beta Xi** alumnae from **UCLA's** class of 2005—including **Cara Cassidy Cavanaugh, Kristina Owyong Vinson, Kate Pisani Ellison, Jenn Bowie Curtis, Kate Petry Conard, Sarah Komin DuRoss, and Stacy Chun**—get together at least once a year with their spouses and children.

E Alumnae from the 1972 new member class of the **Delta Kappa Chapter** at **Louisiana State** gathered in Aspen, Colorado. **Susan Smyth Alberty, Patricia Rooney Robichaux, Mathilde Hoefer Leary, Elizabeth Wolfe Ramirez, and Mary Ropp Mattei** have been friends for 47 years!

F This summer, six members of the 1963 new member class from **Lambda Chapter** at **Vermont** gathered in Jackson Hole to renew 57 years of Theta friendship. Pictured are **Carol Neiman Spatz, Kathy Nunan McGuckin, Anne Appleton Weller, Marcia Ely Bechtold, Judy Claypoole Stewart, and Claire Berka Willis.**

G Alumnae from the **Gamma Nu Chapter** at **North Dakota State** alumnae reunited in Napa Valley and snapped this lovely photo.

H Nine **Beta Rho** alumnae from the class of 1987 at **Duke** gathered for a weekend in Hudson Valley, New York.



C



D



E



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A



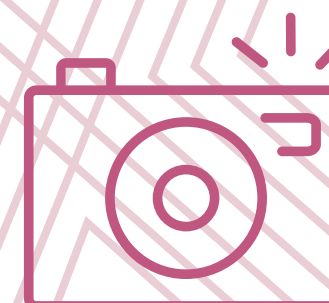
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EVENTS

I Thetas spanning 60 years gathered for lunch at the Walla Walla [Washington] Country Club. Pictured are **Susan Ankeny Little, Beta Delta/Arizona**; **Dorothy Bradford Hockett, Alpha Sigma/Washington**; **Sheila Dryden Bateman, Beta Iota/Colorado**; **Janet Byerley Rindal, Delta Iota/Puget Sound**; **Elizabeth Humphrey, Delta Delta/Whitman**; **Jenna Bicknell, Delta Delta/Whitman**; **Carol Brooks Allen, Delta Delta/Whitman**; **Donna Perry Jones, Delta Delta/Whitman**; **Mary Gilmore Jensen, Alpha Sigma/Washington State**; and **Ann Berner Counsell, Delta Delta/Whitman**.

J **Ann Berner Counsell, Delta Delta/Whitman**; **Angela Balint Beehler, Gamma Nu/North Dakota State**; **Candice Pedro Nooy, Delta Epsilon/Arizona State**; **Leah Kennard Prost, Alpha Mu/Missouri**; **Katie Gordon Nelson, Alpha Sigma/Washington State**; **Jenny Hughes Tiegs, Alpha Sigma/Washington State**; and **Debbie Quinton Barnes, Alpha Sigma/Washington State**, Theta alumnae in the Tri-Cities area of Washington, had lunch together at Tigaris Winery.

K **Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation** was recognized by the Foundation for Fraternal Excellence (FFE) for Best Major Gifts Development Effort! Theta Foundation Executive Director **Kelley Galbreath Hurst, Beta Iota/Colorado**, and **Theta Foundation Director of Advancement Justine Rosenberg Thomas, Epsilon Sigma/UC Irvine**, were in attendance to accept the award.

L **Katie Murray, Epsilon Iota/Westminster**, is not only a successful female urologist in a field dominated by men, but she is also the only urologist in the country with a Master of Science degree in academic medicine from the **University of Missouri-Columbia**.

M How cute are these **Alpha Mu/Missouri** collegians on Bid Day 2019?!

N A group of alumnae from the **Gamma Omega Chapter at Auburn**—**Carol Tulisalo, Angie Gannaway Davis, Kathy Clark Redman, Stephanie White McClinton, Tracie Davis Youngblood, Melissa Merryman Sypeck, Rebecca Dowdy, Kara Joiner Dykes, Rosemary Ginn, and Amy Woodson Stewart**—attended the Auburn Women's Football Camp in July.

O **Robin Weneker, Alpha Mu/Missouri**, was appointed to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) by Missouri Governor Mike Parson. Robin is the managing partner for her family-owned property management company, and has previously worked with Marketing Mix, the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games, and Procter & Gamble. She brings extensive community and board involvement to this new position.

P **Traci Harr Kennedy, Alpha Mu/Missouri**, received the Mizzou G.O.L.D. Award, which recognizes graduates of the last decade who have donated outstanding value in their time and talents on behalf of the **University of Missouri**. Traci has been a volunteer for the university since her undergraduate career at the school. Since 2014, she has been an advisor for **Alpha Mu Chapter** and is an alumna mentor for **Griffiths Leadership Society**.

Q **Lisa Lowry Schwartz, Epsilon Epsilon/Baylor**, was recently given the **Bill Taylor Award by Balfour/Taylor Publishing Company** at the company's National Sales Conference. The award, named in honor of Taylor Publishing Company Founder Bill Taylor, recognizes the positive impact and career achievements of a deserving sales representative each year. Lisa is the first woman in the company's history to earn this honor! She has been with the company for 26 years and co-owns the Houston/European office.

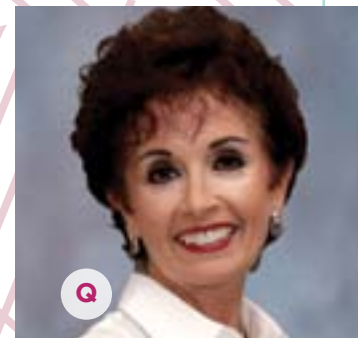
R **Eta Phi/Belmont's 2019 Executive Council** took this fun-filled group photo. Keep up the great work, ladies!



COLLEGIANS & ALUMNAE

S Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity President **Mandy Burgett Wushinske, Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern**, was pleased to pose with some former educational leadership consultants (ELCs) at the **Centennial Celebration of Beta Zeta/Oklahoma State**.

T Alumnae of the **Eta Chapter at Michigan** were enjoying a mini-reunion in Chicago when they ran into some collegians from the **Epsilon Phi Chapter at Chicago** getting ready for exams. It's truly incredible when Theta sisters across generations come together to share a few stories and snap a great photo!



The Art -and Heart- of Leadership



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES REMAINS AT THE HEART OF KAPPA ALPHA THETA

Throughout 2019—the final year leading to our sesquicentennial—we’ve been celebrating Bettie Locke Hamilton and the Year of Leadership. Although Bettie might not have pinned the label of *leader* on herself, Kappa Alpha Theta lives on as a demonstration of her courage, vision, and perseverance ... key components of leadership.

As we approach our 150th anniversary, let’s take a look at how Theta programs promote leadership by enhancing self-knowledge and nourishing the capacity each of us has to mobilize herself and others to serve and work collaboratively. These programs are made possible in part by the generosity of members who continue to support their sisters through donations to Theta Foundation.



One of the goals mapped to ELI is community engagement.



“Life-changing” is how Thetas describe their service trip experiences.



Based on in-person workshops, StrengthQuest webinars help participants develop strengths by building on what they already do best.

EMERGING LEADERS INSTITUTE

The Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) provides leadership education and development to undergraduate members, with an emphasis on emerging leaders. Curriculum focuses on increasing skill development and understanding leadership as a relational process.

Any undergraduate Theta who considers herself an emerging leader is encouraged to apply. Emerging leadership is defined not by age or school year, but rather by experience and development. The two sessions usually take place in the summer at DePauw University. More than 835 collegians have taken advantage of this opportunity. (See page 5 for more about ELI.)

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Theta’s Leadership Academy provides leadership education and development to newly elected college chapter officers; the list of specific officers invited to attend rotates from year to year. The Academy experience focuses on understanding effective leadership and offers participants opportunities to practice applying that knowledge to their leadership roles. Since the start of this program, nearly 800 Theta collegians have learned ways to think about and demonstrate effective leadership that will not only benefit them in their chapter leadership roles but also serve them well beyond their college years.

SERVICE TRIPS

Our service trips provide an immersion experience in which participants work to serve areas of need in a particular community. The trip is designed for Thetas seeking to learn more about the impact of service and how serving others can change and develop each of us as a person. Those who have had a service trip experience are making a real and lasting change by spreading the widest influence for good. Approximately 130 collegians and alumnae have participated in a service trip.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONSULTANTS (ELCS)

The Educational Leadership Consultant (ELC) program was launched in 1959, and quickly became one of the most coveted—and challenging—positions in the Fraternity. ELCs are recent college graduates who serve in a highly visible role for Theta. Their term generally extends from July to April.

ELCs are role models for Theta’s college chapter members and alumnae volunteers. As official representatives of the Fraternity, ELCs must have thorough knowledge of Fraternity laws and procedures. They must enthusiastically support Theta’s ideals and foster her goals and objectives. ELCs demonstrate a rich tradition of service to Kappa Alpha Theta: since 1959, 440 Thetas have served as ELCs. If you’d like to keep up on what Theta’s current ELCs are doing, follow their Instagram page, @ThetaELCs. (See pages 30 and 31 for more about the ELC program.)

STRENGTHSQUEST WEBINARS

Theta offers StrengthsQuest webinars to all interested members, allowing them to discover their strengths and how to use those talents to achieve academic, career, and personal success. In the past several years, nearly 1,000 members have taken a StrengthsQuest workshop or webinar.

From the beginning, Thetas have been leaders—whether identified as such by a title or not—in their chapters, campuses, communities and careers. Theta’s steadfast commitment to leadership throughout all phases of membership would surely make Bettie proud.



Guidance & Support

▲
Back row: Carly Stone, Courtney Sprouse, Rachel Bontempi
Front row: Riley Cluxton, Samantha Moy, Caitlin Soltesz

Theta’s educational leadership consultants (ELCs) serve as tireless ambassadors, enhancing college members’ experience and leadership efficacy, plus serving as role models. Chosen for their academic achievements and chapter/campus leadership, these recent graduates completed an intensive training curriculum, gaining a thorough knowledge of our programs, procedures, and laws.

Theta’s strategic plan emphasizes the importance of programs with the greatest value for members, and the ELC program has long been an opportunity to provide guidance and support to chapters. Our ELCs are knowledgeable about chapter operations, and this year they are intentionally focusing their support and programming in three areas: accountability, leadership, and recruitment. Regardless of their programming focus, each aims to aid chapters in learning, growing, and becoming their best.

RACHEL BONTEMPI, ZETA RHO/UC SAN DIEGO

Focus: Accountability
Hometown: Half Moon Bay, California
Major: communications, English literature

Favorite Theta memory: the many road trips I have taken with my Theta sisters! From San Diego to my home in the bay and back again, nine-hour drives are made so short with good music and good company.

Self-care tip: it’s important to make space for yourself. Being able to say “no” when you need to and to spend time on yourself are vital to keeping you refreshed.

RILEY CLUXTON BETA GAMMA/COLORADO STATE

Focus: Recruitment
Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado
Major: biomedical sciences

Favorite Theta memory: playing hide-and-seek in the Theta house during a power outage. Normally, this would have been boring and stressful, but spending time with my Theta sisters made it so much fun!

Self-care tip: schedule time in my busy schedule to call or FaceTime my family and friends and hear their sweet voices!

SAMANTHA MOY DELTA EPSILON/ARIZONA STATE

Focus: Leadership
Hometown: Rancho Mirage, California
Major: biological sciences, psychology

Favorite Theta memory: having all the girls in the house come to my room for dance parties.

Self-care tip: always reserve a time during the week to do an activity you love.

CAITLIN SOLTESZ ALPHA NU/MONTANA

Focus: recruitment
Hometown: Great Falls, Montana
Major: journalism, media arts & entertainment management

Favorite Theta memory: Emerging Leaders Institute. (Riley and I met there and now we’re ELCs together which is exciting!)

Self-care tip: after a long day, I indulge my sweet tooth with a yummy dessert while coloring or watching a favorite TV show. I especially love to color because it helps me relax and takes my mind off other things.

COURTNEY SPROUSE ZETA OMEGA/ LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

Focus: accountability
Hometown: Portland, Oregon
Major: Dance

Favorite Theta memory: our fund-raising event, Rock the CASA. It really united not only Greek Life, but service organizations, sports teams, and other clubs as well!

Self-care tip: take a bubble bath. Gives you time away from screens and can help you relax after stressful days.

CARLEY STONE ALPHA NU/MONTANA

Focus: leadership
Hometown: Chugiak, Alaska
Major: speech, language and hearing sciences

Favorite Theta memory: Initiation. Theta ritual was never more meaningful for me than when I was sharing it with new members for the first time. One of the most special moments of my time as CEO was facilitating the Initiation Service and welcoming women into our sisterhood.

Self-care tip: take time to move your body, whether it’s getting in a workout at the gym or just taking a walk outside.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES ... TO BE AN ELC?

- Will you graduate by June of 2020?
- Are you a Theta in good standing?
- Do you have effective communication and presentation skills?
- Do you relate to a variety of age groups?
- Are you adaptable?
- Are you in good health and able to travel extensively?
- Do you believe in the Fraternity’s ideals and principles?

If you or someone you know would like to learn more and apply to be an ELC (The deadline for 2020-2021 is December 15.), visit www.kappaalphatheta.org/members/programs/elc program. Questions about the program may be addressed to ELCprogram@kappaalphatheta.org



WHAT THETA (AND LIFE LOYAL) MEANS TO MAGGIE

Maggie Kristian was impressed by the warmth, humor, and support of the Upsilon Chapter at Minnesota when she participated in formal recruitment.

“During a very turbulent and formative time in my life—I had moved halfway across the country, begun college classes for the first time, and was adjusting to the culture of a new state—having instant and active support made me feel much more confident and capable of success.”

Maggie believes one of the biggest assets a woman can cultivate is a support network. As a collegian, she found that living and spending time with other women with big dreams helped keep her focused and find joy in working toward her goals, especially during frustrating or difficult times. “I learned how to find a better balance between holding myself accountable and giving myself time to breathe and recover,” she said. “I was able (and continue to be able) to surround myself with women who are amazing examples of healthy ambition, self-image, and world view.”

To Maggie, Life Loyal is not simply a way to remain connected to the support network she finds so valuable; it is also a way to continue the legacy of our founders and actively shape the future of Kappa Alpha Theta. “Being Life Loyal means helping to provide space, networks, and support for women to both develop their expertise in their field and leadership in their life and to translate that into real-world impact.

“How might we continue to improve how we leverage ourselves and our sisters as change-makers? How might we continue to expand our scope and help one another make an impact in our own communities and fields? How can we actively help an international network of women play to their own strengths and skills to amplify our impact and change the world for the better? How can we ensure that membership in a women’s fraternity is an inclusive and empowering option for all college women? These are all questions that I’ve considered and hope to continue to develop as a Life Loyal member.”

Now that she’s graduated, Maggie works in a job that she describes as her dream. As an electricity policy analyst, she collects and analyzes data to help develop a zero-carbon electric system that can support additional load brought on by electrification of diverse energy uses, like renewable energy generation or distributed energy resources. “My job combines my passion for finding solutions to climate change problems and my background in economics and environmental science, and I’m really lucky to be able to work in a job where I feel fulfilled, motivated, and can learn something new every day.”

BECOME A LIFE LOYAL THETA! THESE WOMEN JOINED LIFE LOYAL BETWEEN MAY 1 AND JULY 31, 2019.

KAPPA/KANSAS Molly Stout Moore Christy Dunn Staker LAMBDA/VERMONT Kit Finley GAMMA DEUTERON/OHIO WESLEYAN Jennifer Schwade Fillman OMICRON/USC Lauren Bender Laura Anderson Freedman PI/ALBION Marilynn Davis Gilbert TAU/NORTHWESTERN Sue Robbins Hamilton PHI/PACIFIC Kimberly Williams Mecham Kelly Reed Sharples CHI/SYRACUSE Susan Baren-Pearson OMEGA/UC BERKELEY Tiffany Pinder Patrierno ALPHA GAMMA/OHIO STATE Lisa Purvis Hinson ALPHA THETA/TEXAS Ashley Schiro ALPHA LAMBDA/WASHINGTON Sarah Cohn Jessica Metcalfe Laura Scheyer ALPHA MU/MISSOURI Laura Supalla Gilchrist Katherine Herrick ALPHA XI/OREGON Janice Gale Silva ALPHA OMICRON/OKLAHOMA Charlie Abbey Missy Boatright Bailey Bottomley Allison Ford Lewis Cynthia Ellis Purgason	ALPHA TAU/CINCINNATI Alice Bechtold ALPHA UPSILON/WASHBURN Donna Jones Meyer ALPHA PHI/TULANE Meredith Rich Angrist Shelby Crutchley Dillon ALPHA PSI/LAWRENCE Claire Vinopal BETA DELTA/ARIZONA Rachel Barnes Sarah Dahm Julia Davenport BETA ZETA/OKLAHOMA STATE Nancy Turner Allford BETA IOTA/COLORADO Amanda Kaeser Kristin Krueger Mueller Jilliann Simms Romi Skolnik Lauren Zappaterrini BETA LAMBDA/WILLIAM & MARY Casey Lipinski Davis BETA MU/- Gabby Pellegrini BETA NU/FLORIDA STATE Lea Oliveros Lynne Darby Scruggs BETA OMICRON/IOWA Rebecca Smith Field BETA PI/MICHIGAN STATE Mary Straith Duncan BETA RHO/DUKE Cora Pensyl Brown Carrie McKim BETA SIGMA/SMU Caroline Corley GAMMA DELTA/GEORGIA Holli J. Hines Easton GAMMA THETA/CARNEGIE MELLON Emma Molitor	GAMMA IOTA/KENTUCKY Claire Tauer GAMMA NU/NORTH DAKOTA STATE Jeanette Meyers Blair GAMMA PI/IOWA STATE Brittany Kroese McCall Kayleigh Slater GAMMA RHO/UC SANTA BARBARA Bettie Coy Kristen Denney GAMMA SIGMA/SAN DIEGO STATE Chelsea Guevara Deanne Opdahl GAMMA TAU/TULSA Laura Norman Colgan GAMMA UPSILON/MIAMI Leah Ball GAMMA PHI/TEXAS TECH Lindsey Baker Leslie Blake Bailee Bunnell Mallory Grantham Carr Emily Macha Emilye Webb GAMMA PSI/TCU Debbie Jacobs English Elsie Hodges Gordon Wendy-Adele Humphrey Jamie Krivan Lange Caroline Pawelek Devan Peplow Katie Bax Richardson DELTA DELTA/WHITMAN Christine Simbolon Baudendistel DELTA EPSILON/ARIZONA STATE Natalie Sirois Maddie Vermeesch DELTA ZETA/EMORY Nora Shuart Faris DELTA THETA/FLORIDA Amy Skiles Barlow Monisa Cox Cline	DELTA IOTA/PUGET SOUND Carly Dryden Allison Shapiro DELTA KAPPA/LSU Susan Frantz Brassard Kerci Champagne DELTA OMICRON/ALABAMA Alex Detrick Alison Gentry Laura Hurd Ashley Lupo Allyson Whittemore Stephens Stacy Wellborn DELTA PI/TENNESSEE Joan Tanning Hug DELTA UPSILON/EASTERN KENTUCKY Julie Miller Witers DELTA OMEGA/TEXAS A&M Kayla Leonard Goldberg Julia Holden Hannah Maetzold Melissa Payne Slimp Kendall Thurston EPSILON EPSILON/BAYLOR Katherine Smith PHI DEUTERON/STANFORD Emily Shah EPSILON ZETA/MISSISSIPPI Laura Bell Mead Isabelle Repinski EPSILON LAMBDA/DICKINSON Natasha Bartolo EPSILON NU/VIRGINIA TECH Kristen Simmons Bruzzese Leslie Dumas EPSILON PI/BUCKNELL Jess Carleton EPSILON SIGMA/UC IRVINE Kari Fiske Kerr EPSILON TAU/YALE Sarah Better Andrea Fleming	ZETA THETA/CAL POLY Juliana Ferrentino Megan Sorensen ZETA IOTA/WASHINGTON & LEE Katherine Dau ZETA NU/UC DAVIS Mihoko Kubo ZETA RHO/UC SAN DIEGO Karlie DeBerard Sierra Orsinelli-Rivers Isabella Niro von der Linden ZETA TAU/DELAWARE Megan Monks ZETA PHI/PEPPERDINE Alyssa Malley ETA ETA/COLLEGE OF IDAHO Nicole Jordan ETA IOTA/SAN DIEGO Reed Erickson ETA MU/OCCIDENTAL Claire Taylor ETA XI/QUINNIPIAC Maddie Renaud ETA SIGMA/CHAPMAN Kaitlin Moore Kellyn Toole ETA PSI/TUFTS Maddy Katz ETA OMEGA/SAINT LOUIS Maddie Michel THETA THETA/NC STATE Amanda White THETA IOTA/- Becky Cox Margaret McGraw Nicole Miller THETA MU/MINES Emmy Tran THETA XI/UC SANTA CRUZ Hana Baig Madison Wright
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KAPPA ALPHA THETA

LIFE LOYAL

LIFE LOYAL MEMBERS RECEIVE

- A lifetime subscription to the *Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*
- Fraternity dues payment for life*
- A handcrafted lapel pin
- A limited-edition gift from our Life Loyal collection and more!

*Not including alumnae chapter dues.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Since 1870, Theta has remained committed to high ideals and to providing opportunities for intellectual and personal growth. Yet providing these opportunities does not come without a cost, and that is why we created Kappa Alpha Theta Life Loyal. Our college members not only excel in academics and leadership on their college campuses, they also account for a significant portion of Theta’s general treasury income. When you enroll in Theta Life Loyal, you help free college dues and fees to support ethical, social, and educational programs that develop women of integrity and character. When you enroll in Theta Life Loyal, you help our Fraternity continue to foster dear friendships and nurture hopes and dreams for generations to come.

HOW DO I ENROLL MYSELF?

- Online:** Simply go to thetalifeloyal.org to join and pay through our secure website.
- Phone:** Call Theta headquarters, **800-526-1870**, to provide your contact and payment information over the phone.
- Mail:** Print the enrollment form available at thetalifeloyal.org and mail the completed form with your check or credit card information to:
Kappa Alpha Theta
attn: Kristi Tucker
8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

Theta Held Me Together

BY KELLI WARD | DELTA ETA/KANSAS STATE



Kelli & Kate



Cassie & Kelli



Hannah & Kelli

I think it's a little funny contributing to a piece called "Words of Wisdom," because I'm not totally sure I have any. What I do have, however, is a story of incredible support and possibly the best example of wisdom that I could offer.

On Thursday, March 15, 2018, my life was changed forever. My mom texted me asking when my first class started; I responded that I had Calc II at 10:30 a.m. I didn't think much of it and assumed she wanted to chat about my upcoming spring break trip without interrupting one of my classes. About an hour later, she called me to say that she and my dad were about five minutes away from the Theta facility. I immediately knew something was wrong, but she told me she knew I was scared but to wait until they arrived. I can still hear her words and picture her face so vividly, "Kelli, Evan killed himself this morning."

Evan is—was—my seventeen-year-old brother. I could describe in so much detail how agonizing the next few moments/days/weeks/months were, but I doubt anything that I could write would truly do the experience justice. I had been planning spring break with some of my closest friends; instead, my parents and I were suddenly planning a funeral.

I tried to start packing to go home. I was numb and couldn't even bring myself to tell anyone, let alone figure out what I was going to pack or any other practical considerations. One of my roommates, Hannah Heatherman, walked in. After that moment, it was a blur of my Theta sisters taking care of everything I needed. Hannah gave me the strength to tell my best friend, Kate Preston, what happened, and she came over immediately to be with me. They took care of telling my roommates, helping me pack, and simply wouldn't let me endure this immense pain alone.

Delta Eta Chapter's current CEO asked for my permission to inform the rest of the chapter. I was incredibly thankful for this because I couldn't bear the thought of telling a single other person what happened. Another of my closest friends, Cassie Delich, made plans to be with me instead of going to be with her family to start spring break. Cassie also coordinated with my boyfriend, whom she barely knew at the time, to come along with her. Without them, my house would have been unbearably empty. And Theta's support didn't end there. Delta Eta Chapter sent flowers the day of Evan's funeral, and I had countless Theta sisters checking on me via text to let me know they were thinking of me.

When I returned to campus about a week later, I was terrified I would have to deal with this grief on my own. It was still so fresh in my mind and heart, and I was sure it couldn't be that way for anyone else. But in the weeks following, I received more hugs, messages, and words of love and encouragement from Theta sisters I'd known for only a semester than I would have ever expected. Every time I sat down at my desk, new notes and cards had appeared, many of which were from Thetas I knew solely from living in the same house and wearing the same letters. I was so fearful that I would have to reach out every time I needed support and that I might be huge burden on those closest to me, but that wasn't true either. Many of my sisters were remarkable at somehow knowing exactly when I needed to hear a few kind words or when something would be especially hard for me. It's now been about a year and a half since I lost my brother, but the support and genuine love from my sisters has never wavered.

While I would have had other friendships without Theta, there is something uniquely strong about this sisterhood.

Without Theta, I would certainly not have finished my freshman year on time and potentially might not have returned to Kansas State these next two years. While I would have had other friendships without Theta, there is something uniquely strong about this sisterhood. Without Theta, I would not have had 160+ amazing women on my side working together in a cohesive way. When I started my college career, I thought sororities were bizarre: how could women claim to be sisters like that? Now, I am exceptionally grateful I made the decision to participate in recruitment and accept a bid from Kappa Alpha Theta. In Theta, I found a place of acceptance, of love, of family, that my life would be so empty without. Theta built me up and held me together in a way for which I am profoundly and deeply thankful.

AS THE LEAVES ARE
changing
IT'S TIME TO START
saving

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KAPPA ALPHA THETA

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There's no place like
hope for the holidays.

For a child in foster care, the holidays are a very difficult time of year. Help us bring the support and advocacy of a CASA/GAL volunteer to more children in need by making a gift to National CASA/GAL through the Theta Foundation or by volunteering with a program near you.

DONATE OR VOLUNTEER TODAY.

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Voices

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO GREEK IF YOU WANT TO CULTIVATE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS, SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY, ENHANCE YOURSELF ACADEMICALLY AND BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOURSELF.

The Daily Wildcat, 8.1.2019

FOLLOW YOUR HEART AND YOUR PASSION. IF YOU'RE TRUE TO YOURSELF, IT'LL WORK.

MJ Sagan
Beta Phi/Penn State
(See page 19.)

I THINK ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE IS TO BE OPEN-MINDED AND TO BE OPEN-MINDED FOR CHANGE.

Jenna Bush Hager
Alpha Theta/Texas
Closerweekly.com, 6.21.2019

THE FOUNDERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE THETA FOUNDATION'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS, VALUED AT \$12,000 EACH, AND AWARDED TO FOUR COLLEGE JUNIORS EACH YEAR. EACH RECIPIENT IS PURPOSEFULLY MATCHED TO A SPECIFIC FOUNDER BASED ON THEIR SHARED QUALITIES.

(See page 10.)

YOU MUST BE WILLING TO JUMP IN HEADFIRST, GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY, AND WORK TO MAKE YOUR PART OF THE WORLD EVEN JUST A SLIGHTLY BETTER PLACE.

Samantha Gold
Beta Eta/Pennsylvania
(See page 9.)

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN IS SO POWERFUL. WOMEN MAKE MANY DIFFERENT LIFE CHOICES, AND I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN THOSE CHOICES: WORK OR STAY HOME, FOR EXAMPLE.

Marjorie Herrera Lewis
Delta Epsilon/Arizona State
(See page 23.)

LISTEN TO THE VOICE INSIDE YOU. IT'S TELLING YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW.

Denise Rehrig
Alpha Mu/Missouri
Glamour.com, 6.12.2019

WHEREVER YOU ARE ON OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL FOUNDERS DAY, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SPEND A FEW MOMENTS CELEBRATING FOUR YOUNG GIRLS FROM ORDINARY MIDWESTERN BACKGROUNDS WHO CONCEIVED SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY.

Mandy Burgett Wushinske
Zeta Sigma/Ohio Northern
(See page 6.)

[THETA] IS VOLUNTEER-BASED, AND I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE (AND THE HONOR) TO WORK WITH SO MANY SMART, PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AROUND THE GLOBE WHO SHARE A COMMON VISION AND VALUES.

Lisa Gebken Thibault
Epsilon Iota/Westminster
News.westminster-mo.edu, 7.2.2019